Page 3, sixth paragraph after BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING, as follows:

RY

Fig. 6 is an upper view of a rolling mill showing a drive mechanism according to the invention for moving rolls in the roll axis directions.

Page 16, fourth paragraph should read as follows:

Figures 3A-3C show an example result of edge drop control in one embodiment of the invention. Symbol E represents an amount of edge drop. In this example, the edge drop amount is a difference between the strip thickness at a position 100 mm from the strip widthwise edge and the strip thickness at a position 10 mm from the strip widthwise edge. That is, the edge drop amount indicates by how much the strip thickness 10 mm from the widthwise edge. Symbol 8w in the figure denotes a work roll position, which in this case is a distance in the roll axis direction between the start point of the tapered portion of the work roll and the widthwise edge of the material on the tapered portion side. That is, the symbol 8w represents the distance in the roll axis direction (strip width direction) between the position D (start point of the tapered portion of the work roll) and the position H (widthwise edge of the material on the tapered portion side)

N A

in Fig. 1 and also the distance in the roll axis direction (strip width direction) between the position G and the position F in Fig. 1.

If there are any questions regarding this preliminary amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #381AS/50328).

Respectfully submitted,

August 30, 2001

Donald D. Evenson

Registration No. 26,160

CROWELL & MORING, LLP P.O. Box 14300 Washington, DC 20044-4300

Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500 Facsimile No.: (202) 628-5116